

**Press Release**  
**For Immediate Distribution**  
**September 16, 2004**

***Recorder To Distribute Medical Alert Cards To  
Those Recording Living Wills and Health Care  
Power of Attorney Forms***

**Cards Will Notify Emergency Medical Personnel Where  
To Find Patient's Vital Health Documents**

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If you suffered a severe medical tragedy such as a heart attack, stroke, or auto accident and were incapacitated, would your loved ones know where you kept your living will or healthcare power of attorney? Many Lake County residents have spent the time (and money) to have such documents prepared by attorneys yet we keep them in a drawer or safe place in our homes. Unfortunately, our loved ones usually do not know where these valuable records are stored. That's about to change as a result of a new program that Lake County Recorder Frank Suponcic is implementing!

This week, Lake County Recorder Frank Suponcic began mailing out "Living Will, Healthcare Power of Attorney, and Do Not Resuscitate wallet cards to residents in Lake County that have such important forms on file in the Lake County Recorder's office.

"An area resident first brought the idea to me, and after researching the feasibility, concluded it was a worthwhile and very helpful benefit to those, especially the elderly and those living alone, that file these records with the County Recorder."

The red and white laminated medical alert cards alert EMS personnel, emergency room physicians, and hospital staff of the patient's medical forms that are on file in the Lake County Recorder's office as well as the instrument number and type of medical form on file.

Many have these important document prepared but no one knows where they are – especially at a time of medical emergency and when emotions may be stretched for family members and close friends. For \$28 per document, residents can file their living wills and healthcare power of attorney forms with the County Recorder and with the wallet card, emergency medical personnel will be able to uphold the wishes of the patient by being aware of the patient's wishes. “The medical alert card is a bridge between an unresponsive patient and their medical wishes that chances are did not exist.”

Suponcic learned that it is a frequent practice that when an individual is unconscious as a result of a medical emergency, that emergency personnel either firefighters and EMS personnel out in the field or emergency medical personnel in the emergency room look for medical alert information.

For four years now, Lake County Recorder Frank Suponcic has provided free living will and healthcare power of attorney forms to taxpayers either in his Painesville office lobby and/or through a link on his County website at [www.lakecountyrecorder.org](http://www.lakecountyrecorder.org)

In addition, in his lobby and at area hospitals Suponcic has available an informative and free brochure on Living Wills and the Healthcare Power of Attorney document. Through the assistance of Lake Hospitals EMS Director Dr. Carol Cunningham, this brochure was reviewed and improved. “Many thanks go out to “Dr. C” for her service not only to the community for her leadership as a first class EMS Director and physician, but in taking her time to contribute to this project as well.”

“This is just another example of doing something differently, and doing things better, all in an effort to provide a valuable service to the taxpayers of Lake County.”

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